

Preliminary Amendment
New U.S. Patent Application
February 19, 2004
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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the Brief Description of the Drawings found on page 6 of the specification with the amended Brief Description of the Drawings set forth below:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 illustrates in perspective a female connector and retention device;

Figure 2 is a cross section through line A-A of the female connector of Figure 1;

Figure 3a illustrates an add-in card[[s]] having [[a]] a 2-port male edge connector, ~~and b) a 4 port male edge connector, respectively;~~

Figure 3b illustrates an add-in card having a 4-port male edge connector;

Figure 4a illustrates the I/O expansion system of the invention with [[a]] an add-in card retained in the female connector ~~and b) the retention device released and the add-in card being removed from the female connector; and~~

Figure 4b illustrates the I/O expansion system of the invention with the retention device released and the add-in card being removed from the female connector; and

Figures 5 & 6 illustrate an alternative embodiment of retention device for such I/O expansion systems, in perspective and cross-section respectively.